AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) An actuator unit comprising:

a piezoelectric actuator;

contact pins arranged along the actuator ~~and in~~ conductive connection with ~~the~~ said actuator; and

a hollow body having the piezoelectric actuator disposed therein, ~~the~~ said hollow body being elastic and biasing the actuator, wherein the hollow body is joined tensionally and/or positively to ~~the~~ upper and lower ends of the actuator, ~~and the~~ said hollow body ~~being provided with~~ having holes therein ~~which are~~ of a dumb-bell shape ~~and run~~ running transversely of the hollow body's axis.

2. (Currently Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric actuator is gripped in its direction of expansion between [[an]] upper and [[a]] lower cover plates ~~which are~~ tensionally and/or positively joined to the hollow body.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.

5. (Currently Amended) The actuator unit according to claim [[1]] 4, wherein the minimum distance between adjacent holes of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body .

6. (Previously Presented) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the holes are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body.

7. (Currently Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is made of ~~spring~~ steel and the holes are punched holes.

8. (Currently Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body has at least one weld seam ~~which joins~~ joining together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

9. (Currently Amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body has two abutment edges ~~which are~~ associated with one another extending ~~and extend~~ over the ~~entire~~ length of the hollow body.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The hollow body according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the holes are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body.

16. (Currently Amended) The hollow body according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the hollow body is made of spring steel and the holes are punched.

17. (Currently Amended) The hollow body according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the hollow body has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

18. (Currently Amended) The hollow body according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the hollow body has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The actuator unit of claim 1, wherein the hollow body comprises a tubular spring.

21. (New) The actuator unit of claim 1, wherein the holes of a dumb-bell shape each comprise two side-by-side circular holes joined together by a slot.

22. (New) The actuator unit of claim 21, wherein the circular holes range from about 0.8 to 1.6mm in diameter.

23. (New) The actuator unit of claim 21, wherein the centers of two circular holes connected by a slot are separated by a distance in a range from 1.5 to 3.5mm.

24. (New) The actuator unit of claim 20, wherein the hollow body is comprised of spring steel.

25. (New) The actuator of claim 20, wherein the hollow body is comprised of copper-beryllium alloy.